## REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action electronically sent July 30, 2007. Claims 1-20 were pending in this application and are rejected in the Office Action. For at least the reasons discussed below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

### Drawing Objections

The Examiner objects to the drawings because blocks 22 and 29 in several figures are not labeled with descriptive legends. Applicant submit herewith Replacement Sheets to replace the original formal drawings with corrected drawings that include descriptive legends for these blocks. Favorable action is thus respectfully requested.

### Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,079,544 issued to Wakayama et al. ("*Wakayama*") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0076166 issued to Patenaude ("*Patenaude*").

Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations similar to those previously found in canceled Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6. Claim 1, as amended, includes the following limitations:

> A Virtual Private Network (VPN), comprising:
> a Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) network;
> a plurality of Virtual Local Access Networks (VLANs) each coupled to an edge router of the shared label switching network, the VLANs each communicating traffic with a corresponding edge router utilizing channelized Ethernet over SONET (EoS); and
> the edge routers interfacing the VLANs with the MPLS network, the edge routers comprising:
> a transmit-side edge router operable to convert an ingress VLAN packet received from a VLAN and associated with a VPN to an MPLS packet and to send the MPLS packet to the MPLS network, wherein converting an ingress VLAN packet to an MPLS packet comprises identifying a VPN label that corresponds to a VLAN identifier (VID) of the ingress VLAN packet and generating an MPLS packet having the VPN label; and
> a receive-side edge router operable to convert an MPLS packet received from the MPLS network to an egress VLAN packet and sending the egress VLAN packet to a VLAN associated with the VPN, wherein converting the received MPLS packet to an egress VLAN packet comprises identifying a

VID that corresponds to a VPN label contained in the received MPLS packet and generating a VLAN packet having the VID.

Claim 1 is allowable at least because neither *Wakayama* nor *Patenaude* discloses, teaches or suggests "wherein converting an ingress VLAN packet to an MPLS packet comprises identifying a VPN label that corresponds to a VLAN identifier (VID) of the ingress VLAN packet and generating an MPLS packet having the VPN label" or "wherein converting the received MPLS packet to an egress VLAN packet comprises identifying a VID that corresponds to a VPN label contained in the received MPLS packet and generating a VLAN packet having the VID." For a teaching of limitations similar to these in canceled Claims 5 and 6, the Office Action cites to Column 4, line 33 – Column 6, line 18 of *Wakayama*. However, *Wakayama* does not disclose these limitations. There is simply no disclosure in *Wakayama* of a correspondence between a VPN label and a VID or using this correspondence to a generate a MPLS packet having a VPN label corresponding to a VID of a VLAN packet or to generate a VLAN packet having a VID corresponding to a VPN label contained in a received MPLS packet. Applicants note that the recited "VPN label" is different than an MPLS "forwarding label" (which is recited, for example, in Claim 7 and described, for example, with reference to Figure 3 of the present application). Although *Wakayama* might disclose a forwarding label in an MPLS packet, it does not disclose a VPN label in an MPLS packet. Furthermore, it also does not disclose using any sort of correspondence between a VPN label and a VID.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 1, as well as the claims that depend from Claim 1.

Independent Claim 12 recites "wherein converting a VLAN packet to a label switching packet comprises identifying a VPN label that corresponds to a VLAN identifier (VID) of the VLAN packet and generating a label switching packet having the VPN label and a forwarding label." Independent Claims 16 and 19 recite similar limitations. For reasons similar to those provided above in conjunction with Claim 1, Claims 12, 16 and 19 are also allowable. Thus, Applicants also respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 12, 16 and 19, as well as the claims that depend from Claims 12, 16 and 19.

## CONCLUSION

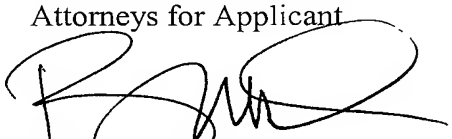
Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all the pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Brian W. Oaks, Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6986.

Although Applicant believes no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicant



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